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OCA FILE SSCI
RECPT # OCA 86-2934
29 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DI/NESA Briefing of SSCI Staff Member Battaglia on PLO

1. DI/NESA provided a review of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the role of Yasir Arafat in a briefing requested by Charles Battaglia of the SSCI staff. Battaglia wanted the update on behalf of Senator Arlen Specter (R., PA).

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of DI/NESA provided the briefing on 12 August 1986 at Headquarters.

2. Battaglia explained that the Senator continued to have special interest in the PLO, particularly its support of terrorist incidents. The interest is relevant to the Senator's responsibilities on the SSCI and the Judiciary Committee. Specter was responsible for legislation which would make it a violation of U.S. law for any terrorist action against an American anywhere in the world. Battaglia was particularly interested in developments over the past year and expectations for the near future.

3. The DI briefing pointed out that the PLO--even Fatah--was not a monolith. Arafat had a public role to play--which was usually one of mediation. It was difficult to discern if and how he also played a role in specific terrorist incidents. The intelligence collection effort against terrorist groups was a serious and significant one, but the "mosaic was incomplete." The briefing also dealt with the Syrian and Iranian support of terrorist groups.

4. Battaglia asked specifically about a former terrorist and informant for the USG who had been allowed to enter the country. Director, NESA, was not familiar with the case which Battaglia raised and the latter said he would query the DO.

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